(b) the area out of it falling in backward areas;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted any proposal to make the barren land fertile in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Ambedkar Villages in UP

2203. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5431 dated 12.9.1996 regarding 'Ambedkar Villages' in Uttar Pradesh and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) Complete information is still to be received from the Government of U.P. The details will be placed on the table of the House on receipt of the complete information from the State Government.

[Translation]

Sick Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

2204. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh sick and closed at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the farmers had to burn their sugarcane as sugar mills had not purchased the same;

(c) if so, the steps taken to check recurrence of such situation;

(d) whether any efforts are being made to revive sick sugar mills in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). These provisions have been extended to cover Government companies also. As per the BIFR, the following two sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh are sick and closed at present :

(i) Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Company Limited, Anandnagar, Gorakhpur.

(ii) Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd. Gauri Factory branch, Gauribazar, Deoria.

(b) and (c) No report about the burning of sugarcane by the farmers has been received from any State Government so far for the current season, 1996-97.

(d) & (e) Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the financial institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rates of interest for such rehabilitation/ modernisaion schemes, subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down.

[English]

Foreign Investment

2205. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States accounts for almost 20 per cent of foreign investment in the food processing sector in India in 1996-97 ;

(b) if so, the other countries who have invested in food processing in India and the US and other countries investment during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the US and other countries have agreed to invest more during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) The foreign investment by USA's companies during 1996-97 in the food processing sector in India accounts for about 76.6% of the total foreign investment approved during this period.

(b) Apart from the companies of USA, proposals have also been received from companies of Australia, Austria, Belgium Bermuda, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mauritius, Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, Srilanka, Switzerland, Thailand, U.K. and Non-Resident Indians. Total foreign investment during 1996-97 by US companies is Rs. 3,424 crores approx., and from other countries Rs. 1,046 crores approx.